



FORGING LINKS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN NORTHERN GHANA

This year we are joining with Ghanaian partner, NORSAAC to empower young women in some of Northern Ghana's poorest communities.

Women in Northern Ghana are the most marginalised group in the country and face barriers in accessing education, healthcare, and good nutrition. Over a third of girls are married before the age of 18 – for many of the poorest families, marrying girls young is a survival strategy for the household.

This education and advocacy project will enable young women to acquire the skills and knowledge to earn a sustainable income - money that will empower them to have more control over their lives and greater independence. 25 women and 15 young men will train together, learning tailoring, welding, electrical wiring and bee hive making skills through a mix of theory and practical, including an apprenticeship, and the opportunity to gain a recognised trade qualification. Trainees will also take part in literacy and numeracy sessions, business skills training, and life skills and health awareness.

Upon graduation, all participants will be supported in establishing their own enterprises, receive a kit of high quality refurbished tools, and have the opportunity to access a small loan. Achieving change means working with the whole community, men and women, boys and girls. As part of the project, we will be reaching over 1000 young people across 20 communities in the Mion and Tolon Districts through a school outreach programme.

Planned activities such as workshops and role play will challenge perceptions of women's roles and explore the issue of child marriage.

This has all been made possible with a grant from Kennington Overseas Aid Committee - 2018 was their final year of fundraising after 50 years of supporting overseas projects, so we were especially grateful for their support. We look forward to updating you with news from this project later in the year.



Aisha Amina, Tailoring graduate, Ghana



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS

In October we welcomed three new European volunteers, Lilian from Germany, and Erik and Yvonne from Austria who have joined the team at Netley Marsh for 12 months as part of the Erasmus+ Programme.

They have settled in well and are enjoying the inter-generational working environment of the workshop. Within their first three months they have been kit packing, working on their personal projects and seen their first tool shipment away to Ghana in November.

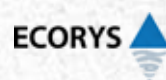
But it's not all been hard work – there's been time for play too! In December they visited the National Trust property; Mottisfont, made new friends at our Big Christmas Quiz night, dressed up as Father Christmas and elves for the volunteer Christmas party and enjoyed a feast with the volunteers on a curry night.



"In the short time I have been volunteering here I have learnt more than at any other point in my life" Erik, European Volunteer

Read all about it

Don't miss reading our new fortnightly blog from the European Volunteers, sharing their experiences whilst volunteering with us and living in the UK;
www.tfsr.org/european-volunteers-blog



THE VALUE OF PARTNER NETWORKING WORKSHOPS

At the end of last year Clare Nolan, Head of Africa Programme and Jo Shannon, Programmes Facilitator, flew to Sierra Leone on a busy two week evaluation visit to interview 88 trainee graduates, meet with in-country partners and connect with Rotary Club of Bo.

As well as visiting trainees at their new businesses or work placements, partner workshop meetings have recently been established as an important day allocated to evaluation visits.

Travelling from all over the country, 14 representatives from all five of Sierra Leone project partners; Mobility Sierra Leone (MSL), Baptist Women's Union (BWU), Craftshare (CVTC), Educational Centre For The Blind And Visually Impaired (ECBVI), and Future Focus Foundation (FFF), came from Kenema, Freetown and Grafton, to meet for the day. The partner network meeting was established for us to share information as a group, including ideas, discuss challenges and build relationships between the partners to better support each other.

The benefits of connecting our partners through these network meetings has already been seen with partners supporting each other with the arrivals and clearance of tool shipments, sharing safeguarding code on conduct, and partners Mobility Sierra Leone and Future Focus Foundation visiting each other's training centre to share ideas.

From their vast experience in the field, Tools for Self Reliance learn so much from our partners on ways we can develop our projects to increase effectiveness of empowering young people with opportunities that are right for them and their community. They steer the projects, they own it and they deliver it.

All 14 representatives present at the Sierra Leone meeting have over a hundred year's combined experience of working in international development across a diversity of issues including child safeguarding, women's rights and challenging stigmatisation of people with disabilities.



Who's who in the photo; Back to front, left to right; Patrick (CVTC), Florey (BWU), Matilda (BWU), Tamba (MSL), John (CVTC), Amara (ECBVI), Rose (CVTC), Joseph, (CVTC), Thomas, (ECBVI), Lansana, (MSL), Jo (Tools for Self Reliance), Lamin (MSL), Hawa (FFF), Sylvestre (FFF).



ROTARY CLUB AND INNER WHEEL UPDATE

We finished 2018 feeling so thankful for the generous support that Rotary and Inner Wheel clubs have given to Tools for Self Reliance throughout the past year.

In March, the Annual Inner Wheel conference in Bournemouth gave us a great opportunity to meet new members and clubs, especially Scottish groups who supported our tailoring projects this year.

Attending both the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) conference in Torquay, and District 1110 conference in Jersey, were real highlights for us this year, especially with the honour Jo had of speaking at the conference as part of the first day's plenary sessions.

2018 also saw two districts grants being successfully submitted to support our vocational training projects in Malawi and Sierra Leone. Whilst on the evaluation visit to Sierra Leone Jo and Clare enjoyed the opportunity to meet with and establish links with Rotary Club of Bo. We hope to develop our relationship with them, over the coming year, linking their support to our project delivering partner; Mobility Sierra Leone.



There was also time to celebrate, and in the beautiful summer sunshine we were joined by 70 Rotarians and Inner Wheel members, who represented 14 clubs. At the end of the year we attended as one of the beneficiaries of the wonderful 'The Glory of Christmas' concert hosted by Salvation Army and Rotary club of Southampton West.

We continue to be inspired by the new clubs we connect with, and humbled by the continued generosity of our long-term friendships.

It has been a pleasure to be invited to give more Rotary Club talks, and if your club would be interested in having a talk from Tools for Self Reliance please get in touch with **Jo Shannon on 023 80869697** or email **Jo@tfsr.org**

With thanks to the following Rotary Clubs: Barton-le-Clay, Winchester, Eastleigh, Bournemouth North, Lymington, Wareham, Christchurch, Waterlooville, Havant, Highcliffe, Bedworth, Locksheath and Porthcawl.

Photo: Top left – right, Rotary Club of Bo in Sierra Leone, Jo Shannon with Tony Sharma 2019/2020 District Governor for District 1130, Rotary Club Garden Party.

DONCASTER TURNS 30!



On 2 November 1988 a small group of people from Sprotbrough Methodist Church in Doncaster refurbished a carpentry tool kit which was sent to Tanzania in a Tools for Self Reliance shipment, and the Doncaster tool refurbishing group was formed. They didn't realise at the time that this kind gesture would lead to a thirty year legacy.

Now, three decades later, the group has refurbished over 700 sewing machines and is approaching the completion of its 400th kit. Their time and efforts have supported more people to earn sustainable incomes and transform their lives for themselves and their families.

If you are interested in joining one of our 32 tool refurbishment groups around the UK, please contact Ben Riley, Group Volunteer Coordinator by email, **Ben@tfsr.org** or calling **02380 869697**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 MARCH - Haberdashery Sale

10am-12 at Netley Marsh Workshops, SO40 7GY

23 MARCH - Tool Sale

10am-12 at Netley Marsh Workshops, SO40 7GY

3 JUNE - Quiz Night

7pm, Take on quiz master Sarah with your team of 6 for a fun quiz night for everyone to enjoy, £10pp incl. supper. Raffle, bar and prizes on the night at Colbury Memorial Hall, SO40 7EL

8 - 14 JULY - Tea for Tools Week

Get together, bake and donate at this year's Tea for Tools week. Host your own tea party, bake sale, or coffee morning and turn your brew into an opportunity which will last a lifetime. See below for more details

10 JULY - Tea for Tools tea party & tool sale

Join us for our summer tool sale and tea party at Netley Marsh Workshops, SO40 7GY

Please note: some events may be subject to change – please do contact us with any questions.

This Spring and Summer we are attending more fairs, shows and festivals to sell tools - please check our website for a full list of events we will be attending www.tfsr.org/support/events

TEA FOR TOOLS #TeaforTools 8-14 July

We need you to get together, bake and donate this July – your pot of tea could be life changing. So, make this year the one that you give your colleagues a smile on a Monday morning, catch up with old friends over a cuppa and conquer that ultimate rainbow cake recipe!

Please email Julia@tfsr.org to register for your fundraising pack, and visit www.tfsr.org/tea-for-tools-2019 to find out more about how you can join us for the best bake off (outside of channel 4) this summer.



YOUR 1% LEGACY CAN LAST A LIFETIME

We are so grateful for each and every one of you who has supported every single opportunity for people living in Africa to earn an income over the last forty years. We want to be here for the next forty, but we can't do it without you.

Ensuring that our loved ones are looked after when we are gone is so important to us all. Leaving just 1% of your estate to Tools for Self Reliance when you are making your will could make the biggest impact to transforming so many young people's lives, empowering them with the skills and tools to earn an income and break the cycle of poverty.

It takes 3 minutes - all you need to amend your existing will is to give your solicitor our charity number; 280437 and registered address; Tools for Self Reliance, Ringwood Road, Netley Marsh, Southampton, SO40 7GY.

For a confidential discussion, please contact Jemma Chambers, Head of Fundraising, on **023 80869697** or email Jemma@tfsr.org

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, WEDDING, ANNIVERSARY...

Celebrate good times! And share the joy by swapping a gift-list of stuff for a list of opportunities from our virtual gifts found on our online shop www.tfsr.org/shop

Why not share the love and donate your birthday, wedding, or anniversary to Tools for Self Reliance. It's easy to set up a Facebook donate page – please email Julia@tfsr.org to find out more.

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